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Edmonds council grilled on purchase of school

By PAM WITMER
Staff Writer

EDMONDS — The City Council adopted a plan for potential use of the Edmonds Elementary School site Tuesday nite, but members of the audience were more concerned about whether the city was going to buy the site from the Edmonds School District.

"Is this a serious discussion about the elementary school?" Norma Bruns asked the council. "Are you really serious about buying it? We went through this same process with the junior high — at what point is there going to be a decision on the part of the council?"

Ms. Bruns and other audience members said they didn't want to see a repeat performance of the council's futile efforts last year to buy the junior high from the school district.

"We saw this all happen before," said Ray Fischl. He explained the council had gotten to this same stage of negotiations on the junior high site — and then Puget Sound College of the Bible stepped in and bought it.

Fischl asked the council if its \$200,000 offer was really in good faith when the city knew the School Board's price was \$500,000.

"We never mentioned a \$200,000 figure," said Councilman Tom Carns. "But our offer was based on our appraisal of the site."

Fischl said he and others in Edmonds were concerned about whether

the council was serious about buying the school site, particularly since school officials recently said they had two offers from private businesses.

Councilwoman Katie Allen, who was formerly on the School Board, reminded the audience that the city has a 60-day right of first refusal. That means if the school district gets a firm offer for the property, the district has to send an official letter to the city to inform Edmonds that the 60-day period has begun.

Then the city has 60 days to meet the school district's other offer. If the city can't meet the offer, the school district can sell to anyone.

City officials have not received any official notice from the school district, Fischl and Ms. Bruns learned Tuesday night.

"Are you fellows really pursuing this vigorously?" asked Laura Hall, a member of the Edmonds Planning Commission. "The public is really in the dark on this. We don't know your plans. Where are we?"

Carns replied: "We're in negotiations. You don't do that in the newspapers."

Councilman Phil Clement said the last time the school district and city officials met, the agreement was that both groups would get new site appraisals and exchange that information.

The council had the city's new appraisal figures in the members' information packets Tuesday. City Attorney John Wallace said an executive

session held after that meeting updated the council on negotiations.

City officials contacted today said they had not yet received their new appraisal figures. No target date was announced for receipt of the new price estimate.

"You don't do this kind of thing overnight," Carns told the Tuesday audience. "We're getting our new appraisal and they are getting theirs too. We're working on it."

In the meantime, council members said they were doing what they could to assure the residents of Edmonds that the property would be well utilized if and when the purchase goes through.

The plan approved by the council at Tuesday's meeting calls for eventual construction of a new library building including underground parking. There also would be cultural and recreational program use of the existing school building over a period of time. The existing library space would be then used for administrative office space.

The plan was suggested by a consultant hired by the council. The consultant's job was to study the site and come up with a plan that would provide the best overall use of the space.

The Edmonds consulting firm of Bailey and Behm will not put together a step-by-step plan for carrying out the site-use scheme approved by the council. That work is estimated to take about one more month.

MONDAY	October 9, 1972 Wiener on Buttered Bun Relishes Buttered Spinach Apple Wedge Cowboy Cookie Milk	October 16, 1972 Barbecued Hamburger on Buttered Bun Buttered Seasoned Green Beans Apple Wedge Lemon Whip 'n Chlll Pudding Milk	October 23, 1972 VETERANS DAY	October 30, 1972 Italian Spaghetti Cabbage, Carrot & Celery Salad Buttered French Roll Fruit Cup (Pineapple, Apple & Mandarin Oranges) Milk
TUESDAY	October 10, 1972 Chlll Con Carne Carrot, Celery & Cabbage Salad Buttered Whole Wheat Roll Pear Half with Red Jello Cubes Milk	October 17, 1972 Beef-Chlll Taco Lettuce, Cheese & Onion Toppings Buttered Mexican Corn Buttered French Roll Apricot & Pineapple Crisp Milk	October 24, 1972 Hamburger Gravy over Buttered Mashed Potatoes Buttered Seasoned Green Beans Buttered Roll Peach Half Milk	October 31, 1972 HALLOWEEN Goblin' Good Cheeseburger Black Olives, Celery and Carrot Sticks Pear Half with Orange Jello Cubes Spooky Peanut Butter Brownies Milk
WEDNESDAY	October 11, 1972 NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK UNIVERSAL MENU Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Tossed Green Salad Buttered French Bread Peaches Peanut Butter Cookie Milk	October 18, 1972 Chicken Noodle Casserole Vegetable Salad (Cabbage, Lettuce, Radish, Celery and Tomato) Orange Wedge Buttered Corn Bread Chocolate Pudding Milk	October 25, 1972 Pork Chow Mein over Rice with Chinese Noodles Buttered Peas and Carrots Buttered Whole Wheat Roll Apple Crisp Milk	November 1, 1972 Hamburger Gravy over Buttered Mashed Potatoes Buttered Seasoned Green Beans Apple Wedge Buttered Roll Bag 'o Nuts Milk
THURSDAY	October 12, 1972 Swedish Meat Balls & Gravy Buttered Mashed Potatoes Buttered Peas Buttered Roll Apple Crisp Milk	October 19, 1972 Wiener on Buttered Bun Relishes Chicken Noodle Soup Fruit Salad (Peaches, Pears and Fruit Mix) Strawberry Ice Cream Milk	October 26, 1972 Wiener in the Blanket Buttered Mixed Vegetables Waldorf Salad Pumpkin Custard Milk	November 2, 1972 Combination Pizza (Salam, Hamburger and Cheese) Buttered Whole Kernel Corn Buttered Whole Wheat Roll Rosy Applesauce Milk
FRIDAY	October 13, 1972 Cheese Pizza Buttered Seasoned Green Beans Fruit Salad (Pineapple, Pears, Fruit Mix, Green Jello Cubes) Buttered Roll Peanut Butter Raisin Cookie Milk	October 20, 1972 In - Service Day	October 27, 1972 Fish Stick with Tartar Sauce Parsley Buttered Mashed Potatoes Coleslaw Buttered Cornmeal Roll Spiced Applesauce Milk	November 3, 1972 Macaroni and Cheese Vegetable Salad (Lettuce, Celery, Radishes & Cabbage) Orange Wedge Buttered Roll Deep Dish Apple Pie Milk



Remember!
Ski School registration in November